



QUÉBEC CINÉMA



For immediate release

Applications open for the new Kuessipan grant

Montreal, May 3, 2021 – Québec Cinéma is pleased to announce that registration for the inaugural **Bourse Kuessipan** is now open. Until May 31, Indigenous filmmakers residing in Quebec are invited to apply online for the chance to receive the **\$10,000** grant. The money will be accompanied by several professional services provided by well-established companies and organizations.

The new grant is made possible by **Myriam Verreault**. The filmmaker received the same generous sum in 2019 after winning the award for best Canadian film at the Windsor International Film Festival for her feature film ***Kuessipan***.

“I want to see new alliances emerge from this emotional adventure. My dream is for Quebec’s film industry to give substantial support to First Nations filmmakers, so that they can tell their stories with the resources they deserve. They are the experts in their own stories, which we are eager to hear,” said **Ms. Verreault**.

“Supporting the First Nations is essential for our organization. It is our privilege to award this grant, which will amplify Indigenous voices. The **Bourse Kuessipan** is a supplementary tool to help filmmakers show us their world through their art and authentic voices. We hope to continue the program in the future, following Ms. Verreault’s generous donation of the prize money for this first edition,” said Québec Cinéma executive director **Ségolène Roederer**.

The **Bourse Kuessipan** will be awarded to an **Indigenous filmmaker residing in Quebec** working on short, medium or feature-length **fictional film** in the language of their choice. To be eligible, filmmakers must submit a letter of intent, a short or long synopsis, and any other relevant information about the project. They must also agree to use the grant exclusively for production of their film. Filmmakers who have already completed a professional fictional feature film are not eligible. The film’s producer may be Indigenous or non-Indigenous. Selected proposals will be translated if they are not written in French.

The jury that will evaluate the applications:

- **Myriam Verreault**, filmmaker and grant creator
- **Sylvie Quenneville**, deputy executive director, Québec Cinéma
- **Naomi Fontaine**, Innu author of *Kuessipan* and co-writer of the film adaptation
- **Kevin Papatie**, Anishinabeg filmmaker
- **Sonia Bonspille Boileau**, Mohawk filmmaker and writer

For more information and to apply for the **Bourse Kuessipan**, complete the application form here https://form.zonefestival.com/?k=rvcq_x4ls

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